SURAH OF AL-MASAD

THE RESEARCH:
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AL-MASAD

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THE REFERENCES

1) https://quran.com/al-masad/info

2) https://quran.com/al-masad

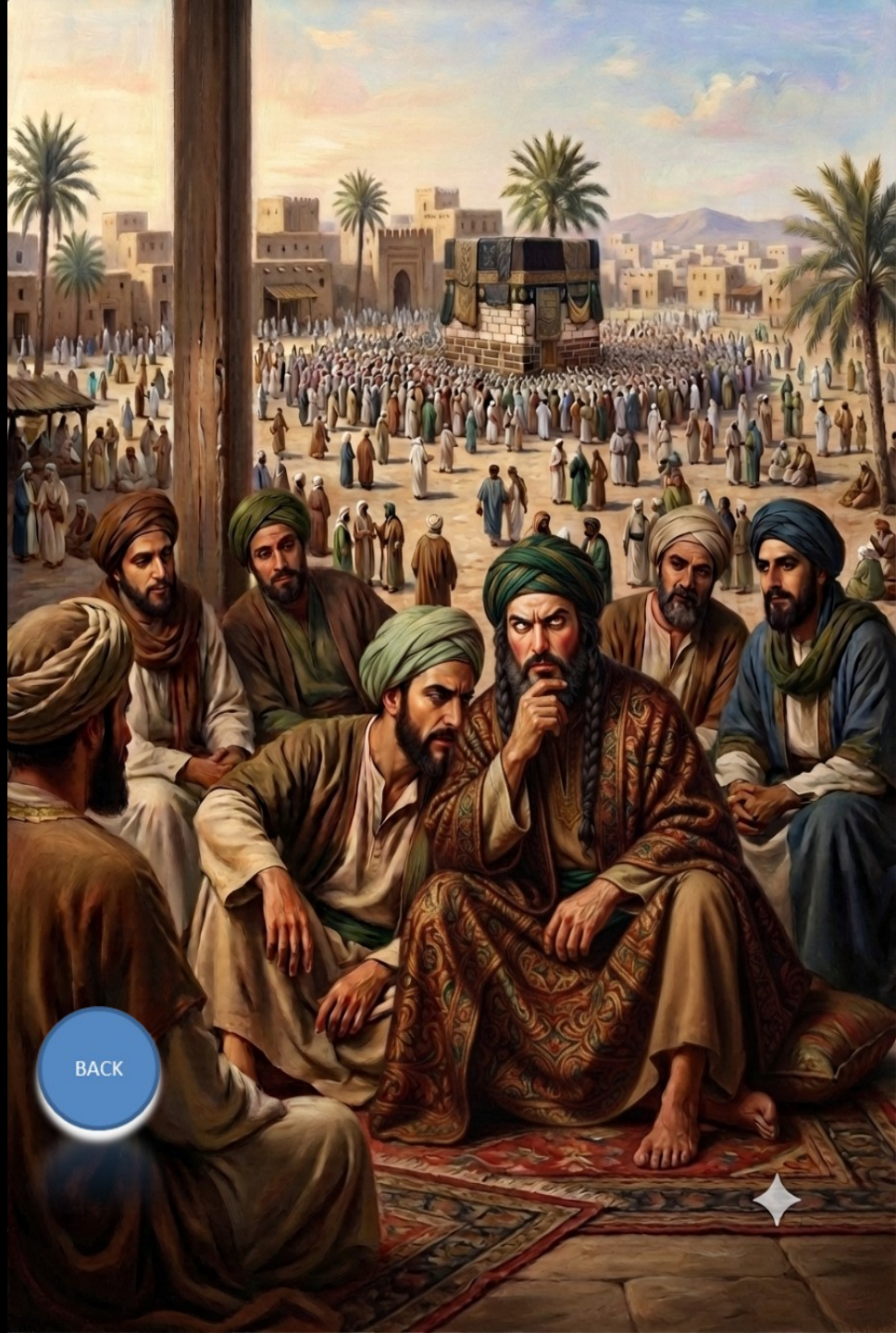
BACK

THE BACKGROUND 1

Adapted from Tafsir Ibn Ashur

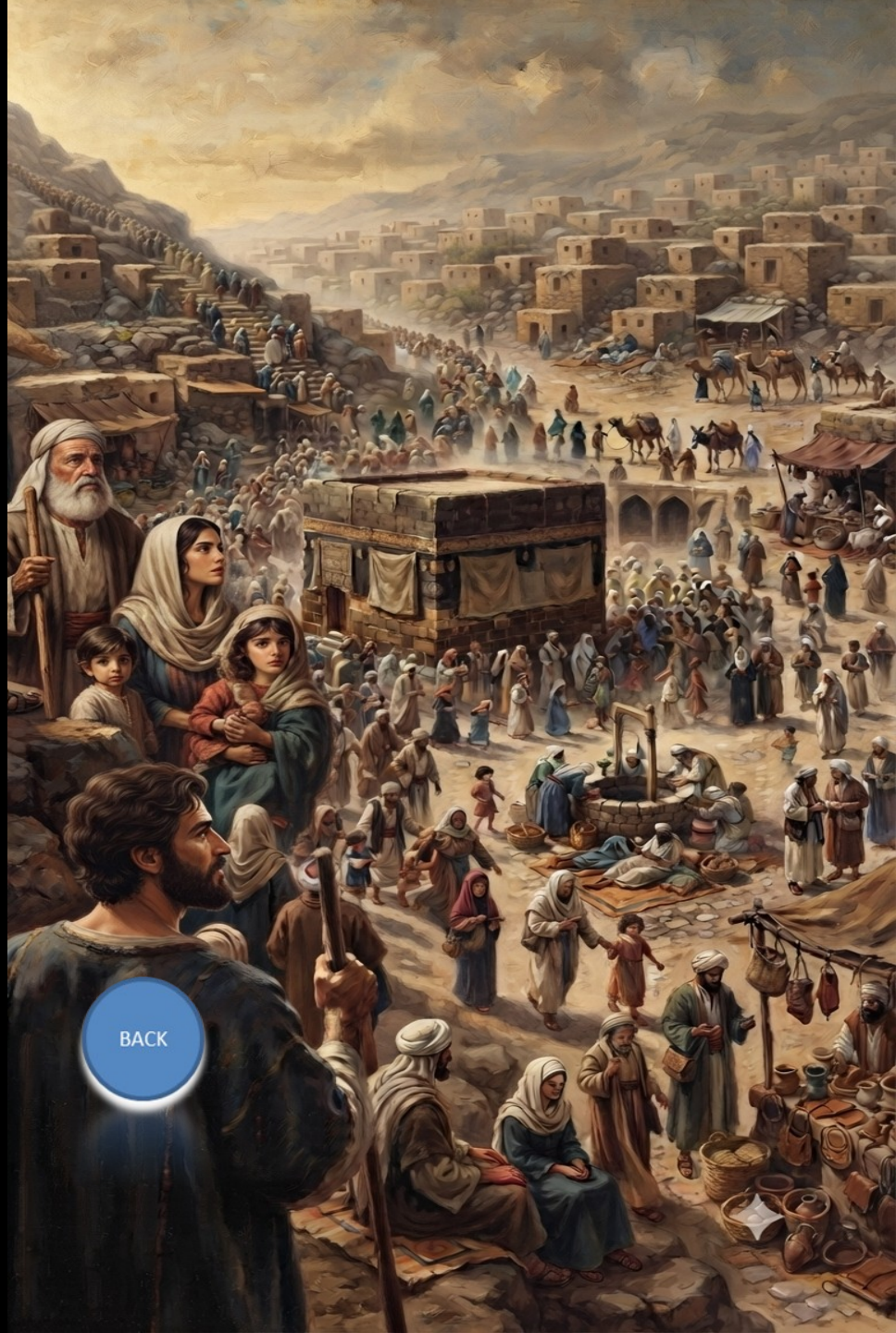
Themes and purpose:

This Meccan surah is a focused condemnation of the Prophet's (□) uncle, Abū Lahab, and his wife, for their relentless persecution of the Prophet (□) and Islam. Its purpose is to deliver an explicit prophecy of their ruin, refute Abū Lahab's confidence in his wealth, and assure both of them of the guaranteed punishment of the Fire.



Revelation Period

- Era: Makkan by consensus.
- Context: The surah was revealed immediately after the Prophet (ﷺ) ascended Mount Ṣafā to announce his prophetic warning to the Quraysh tribe. His uncle, Abū Lahab, publicly cursed him in response, saying, "Tabban lak (Woe to you!)."
- Chronology: It is counted as the sixth surah in the order of revelation, revealed after Sūrat al-Fātiḥah and before al-Takwīr.



Name

- Name: The surah is known as "Sūrat Tabbat" (Perished), "Sūrat Abī Lahab" (The Father of Flame) and "Sūrat al-Lahab" (The Flame), based on the first ayah; another famous name is "Sūrat al-Masad" (The Palm Fibre/Rope) [5].

- Unique Feature: It is the only surah to condemn a specific living opponent of the Prophet (□) by name (i.e. his nickname).

Surah Overview:

- The Curse and Prophecy: Pronouncing the destruction and failure of the power of Abū Lahab, and affirming that his wealth and children will not benefit him. [1-2]
- Punishment: Warning Abū Lahab of his inevitable entry into a flaming Fire. [3]
- Condemning His Wife: Pronouncing the same fate upon his wife (Umm Jamīl) for actively aiding her husband in his hateful deeds. [4]
- The Palm Fibre: Describing the torment of his wife, who will carry firewood as she once carried tales and thorns to harm the Prophet (ﷺ) and will have a rope of palm fibre (masad) around her neck in the Fire. [5]

THE AYAT IN DETAILS 2

تَبَّتْ يَدَآ أَبِى لَهَبٍ وَتَبَّ ۝١

May the hands of Abu Lahab perish, and he [himself] perish!

BACK

مَآ أَغۡنَىٰ عَنۡهُ مَالُهُۥ وَمَا كَسَبَ ٢

Neither his wealth nor worldly gains will benefit him.

سَيَصْلَىٰ نَارًا ذَاتَ لَهَبٍ ﴿٣﴾

He will burn in
a flaming Fire,

وَٱمۡرَأَتُهُۥۚ حَمَّالَةَ ٱلۡحَطَبِ ٤

and so will his wife, the carrier of thorny kindling,1

Footnote - 1

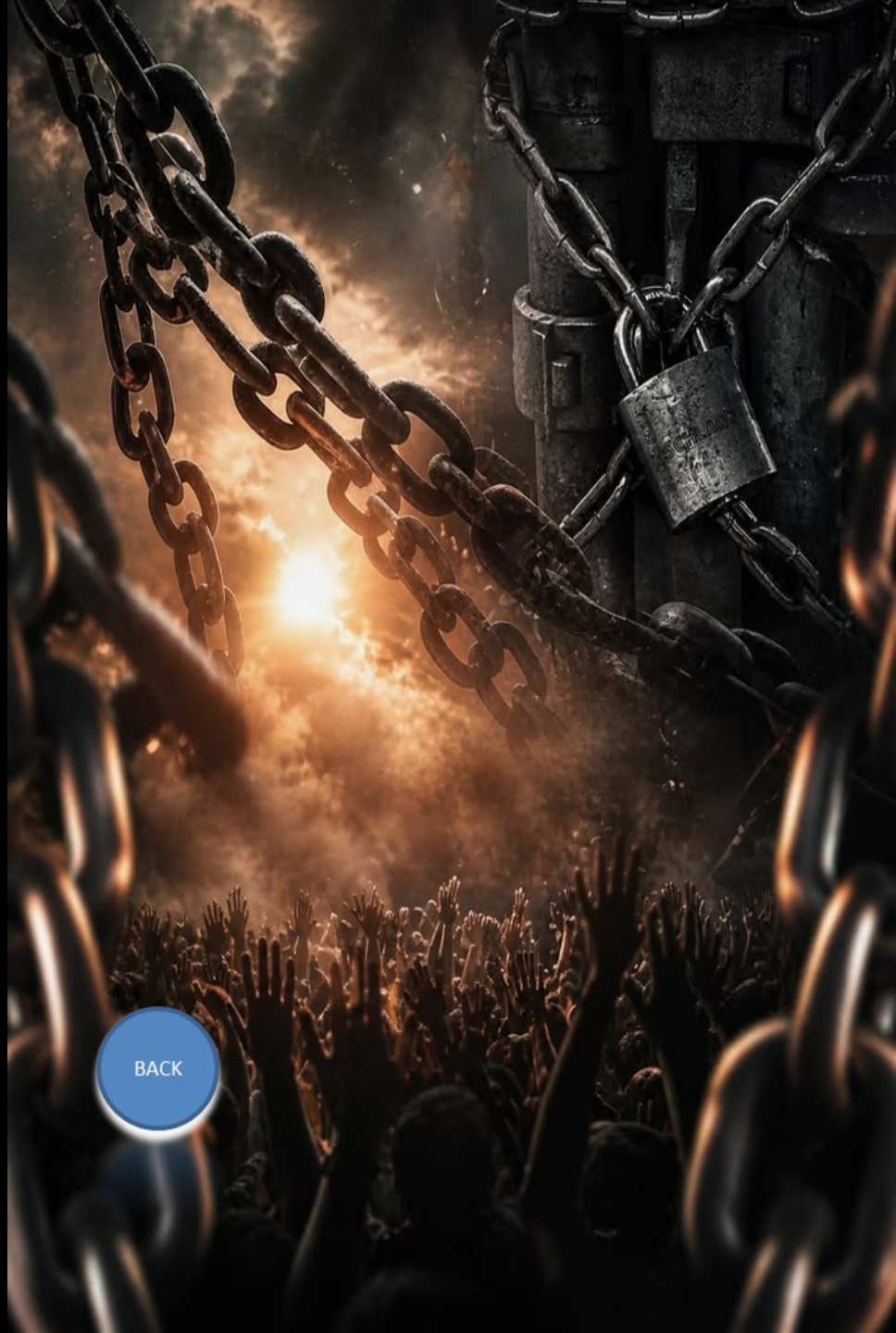
Since she used to carry thorny branches and throw them in the way of the Prophet (), she will be carrying firewood in Hell.

فِي جِيدِهَا حَبْلٌ مِّن مَّسَدٍ ٥

around her neck will be a rope of palm-fibre.1

Footnote - 1

This was one of the earliest sûrahs revealed of the Quran. Paradoxically, for Abu Lahab to disprove the Quran, all he had to do was accept Islam because this verse condemns him to Hell.



EXCERCISES
BACK

1. Remembering (Recall)

1) Who is mentioned in this surah?
2) What happened to the wealth of Abu Lahab according to the surah?
3) What was Abu Lahab's wife's occupation as described in the surah?
4) What will Abu Lahab be thrown into?
5) What will be around the neck of Abu Lahab's wife?

2. Understanding (Comprehension)

1) Why did Allah mention that Abu Lahab's wealth would not benefit him?
2) Explain the meaning of "carrier of firewood.“
3) Why do you think Allah mentioned both Abu Lahab and his wife in this surah?
4) What lesson does this surah teach about relying on wealth and status?
5) What does the rope of twisted fiber symbolize?

3. Applying

1) How can a Muslim avoid behaving like Abu Lahab?
2) What should you do if someone opposes Islam or makes fun of your faith?
3) How can this surah help us remember that actions have consequences?
4) What can we learn about supporting truth even when others reject it?
5) How can we use the lesson of this surah to improve our own character?

4. Analyzing

1) Compare the fate of Abu Lahab with what he hoped to achieve in this life.
2) Why is Abu Lahab's wealth mentioned before his punishment?
3) How did Abu Lahab and his wife work together against Islam?
4) Analyze the relationship between a person's deeds and their final outcome in this surah.
5) Why is this surah considered evidence of the truthfulness of the Qur'an, considering that Abu Lahab lived for years after it was revealed?

5. Evaluating

1) Why was Abu Lahab's family relationship to the Prophet unable to save him?
2) Which lesson from this surah do you think is most important for Muslims today? Why?
3) Do you think wealth or social status can protect someone from Allah's judgment? Support your answer with evidence from the surah.
4) Why is opposing the truth more dangerous than simply making a mistake?
5) Which qualities shown by Abu Lahab and his wife should believers avoid the most? Explain.

6. Creating (Higher-Order Thinking)

1) Write three morals that summarize the message of Surah Al-Masad.
2) Create a short speech explaining the main lesson of this surah to younger students.
3) Design a mind map showing the causes and consequences mentioned in the surah.
4) Imagine you are teaching this surah to a new Muslim. What five key points would you include?
5) Create a real-life scenario that illustrates the lesson that wealth cannot save a person from Allah's judgment.

Higher-Order Critical Thinking Questions

1) Why do you think Allah revealed an entire surah about one of the Prophet's enemies instead of mentioning him only briefly?
2) How does Surah Al-Masad demonstrate Allah's complete knowledge of the future?
3) What would have happened if Abu Lahab had sincerely accepted Islam after this surah was revealed? What does the fact that he never did teach us?
4) What connection can you find between the punishment described for Abu Lahab and the actions he committed during his life?
5) How does this surah

و الحمد لله رب العالمين